

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A respective bipolar junction transistor is coupled across pairs of fuel cells in a fuel cell stack to monitor the voltage across each fuel cell pairs for a drop in voltage below a threshold voltage. A respective optoisolator coupled to each of the transistors produces a digital signal corresponding to the status of the respective pair of fuel cells. An "AND" circuit produces a single digital signal corresponding to the status of one or more pairs of fuel cells.

130109.406/406-AP-FXA-24JUL01/198240\_1.DOC

091615-072504